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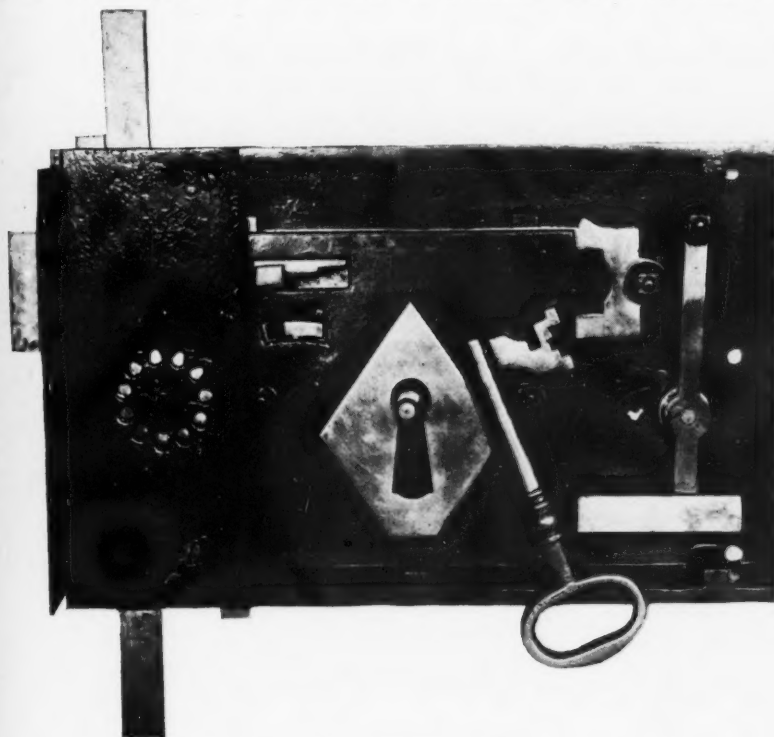
Locks, Ancient and Modern

By CHARLES COURTNEY

[The two articles commencing on this page are stenographic transcriptions of talks given at the Spring meeting of the Association. See page 188.]

The history of locks is as old as the history of civilization itself. Locks have been used for four thousand years. The Egyptians were the first

plating it, and, when Rome was invaded by the Gauls in 385 B.C., the art of making iron locks was entirely lost to civilization and no one knew that



LOCK USED BY AARON BURR

lock makers. They made locks out of teak wood, and some of their locks are still preserved today. They even made pin-tumbler locks out of wood. The Romans made locks out of iron as far back as four hundred years before Christ, but they never learned the art of preserving iron by painting or

there was such a thing until iron, bronze and silver locks were discovered in Pompeii.

I am proud that I have brought to this country some of the finest historical lock collections in the world. Up to fifteen years ago, there were no

(Continued on page 183, column 1)

The Historical Value of Early Advertisements

By ALEXANDER J. WALL

Whenever we think of printing, books, periodicals and pamphlets come to mind. Vast as they are, the productions of job printing are much greater, more varying, I believe, more influential. Although the largest part of it goes into the bulging waste-paper basket, I doubt if we can dispute the fact that we are greatly impressed by the unending leaflets, folders and broadsheets which come to us all to advise us what we should be doing for ourselves and why.

This applies to our health, clothes, household utensils and endless other industries; in fact, everything we live with. These printed assembled bits of printing have become a very part of our lives, and their influence must be great since propaganda and advertising seem to rule the world. From this point of view, these ephemeral printed materials take on much significance, especially when they have been gathered from the past and the present, assorted according to industry and subject and arranged chronologically. They create a formidable gathering of data covering the history and inventions which were put forth each step of the way in the industrial development of the American nation. Such data become a great reference library and can serve the best purposes of the library of books in other fields.

These leaflets and advertisements reflect the manners, ideas and life of the period in which they were issued. It is also well known that the rubbish of today becomes the treasure of the future. Rubbish may be defined as something for which there is no immediate use, and for that reason, so much of this ephemeral printing goes into the waste-paper basket and only a little remains here and there to be gathered when it becomes treasure.

Page 179

The Chronicle

As the writer remarks, such documents show what people, common as well as exclusive, are thinking about, and equally important, what politicians and profiteers wish them to think about. The sociological and historical value of a collection of this kind cannot be exaggerated.

It so happens that in addition to this Society's own collection, gathered by accumulation, there came into its life a lady with a thought and a purpose, who, some fifteen years ago, offered her collection of book plates and trade cards to the library for the privilege of being the curator of the collection. Now, after a quarter of a century, this collection of American industrial trade cards and posters has reached a total of at least two hundred and fifty thousand items, covering every phase of manufactured articles. Here, then, is much of history, printed contemporaneously with the time that the article was produced. When we separate these advertisements from the relic, both lose some of their interest, but together, the story is complete.

Mrs. Belle Landauer's collection here in this building is the only one in the United States and can only be compared with the one in England which was gathered by Dr. John Johnson, printed in the University at Oxford. He realized the importance of gathering these printed scraps, and has today an outstanding collection in Great Britain. Dr. Otto Betteman, a member of the Early American Industries Association, formerly a librarian in Europe, who came to America ten years ago, has an enormous collection of photographic data gathered from books and other sources, relating to early industries and dating back several centuries.

With these three sources, my knowledge of such data ends, but I may not be fully informed. If others exist, I would be glad to know. Without special, detailed knowledge of so many industries whose early objects so many of the members collect, I have chosen at random some forty circulars, posters and cards to illustrate the objective of this talk, namely, to bring to your attention the sources for industrial research, to point out the important features of these data, and the story one gathers in perusing them.

[Slide] I thought it would be well to begin with locks. This was chosen at random. There is a half-volume of

these cards and posters pertaining to this very subject, on which we have had such an interesting discussion. Undoubtedly, Mr. Courtney could tell you all about them, but I just wish to illustrate that a poster such as this has its value. The dates when the various locks come into being are very important, and it also has a commentary which tells us about the improvement of others.

[Slide] Here is the well-known Herring safe manufacturers' poster. You see, it has several values: It gives the pictures of the places where they did their business, and also has an interior view of the manufacturing of locks.

[Slide] A little scrap like this may not seem of very much importance and most people would throw it away, but in reality, we learn a few things from it, and it is part of our history. We learn that in 1808, Mr. John Elliott was in the glass business, and we also learn that six lights of glass cost four shillings and two pounds of putty cost a shilling ten. You may see, too, that as late as 1808, many business people were still using pounds, shillings and pence instead of dollars and cents.

[Slide] If you met with this object, you would wonder what it was all about. You see, it is just a piece of metal or heavy wire, with this ring. This is a lever which opens up at the top. But when you find the card, the printed card which was issued with this, the matter becomes very simple.

[Slide] It is a patent sleeve-holder. The lady put the ring on her finger, clamped the little gadget on her sleeve before putting on her coat: so you see the purpose of it. You get some ideas of what it means if you separate the graphic literature from the object. You may have a better time hunting for what it may have been used for, but it isn't until you get the little card that you get the real story.

[Slide] In those days, you see, they also had ideas about taxation. Here we find the farmer being informed that he is being plundered because in foreign countries, the instruments that they sold were so much less than in America. The top item was sold for \$40 in America and for \$24 in foreign countries, and so on all along the line. There, you get a bit of economics, and you also learn of all the different instruments or implements that were made at that time for the use of the farmer, and the catalog which usually

accompanied this called each of them by name.

[Slide] Oftentimes, it is difficult to realize at the moment, especially when you begin collecting, just what each item may be properly termed. This is the inner page of that same advertising sheet.

[Slide] Now, all of these items were taken from the two hundred-odd large volumes or scrap books which Mrs. Landauer has so diligently worked on all these years and arranged in alphabetical order. The Mrs. Potts sadiron was one which kept the ladies from burning their fingers, because it brought about the first detachable handle, and you see it illustrated here.

[Slide] They went to all sorts of comic illustrations of their sadiron. Here is one using the straight ironer, and burning her hand, and here is a lady without it. I don't know whether or not you can read all of this, but the iron itself was so hot that it would melt icebergs, you see, and the Chinaman down here has a verse in which he says, "Melican man vely smart," because he enjoys his new iron as compared to the old one. Well, each of these little cards (of which this is only a portion of many more) is part of their advertising.

[Slide] Osceola starch. The card that was issued to show what a wonderful polish you could get on a shirt-front by using it as a mirror, shows the lady looking at herself.

[Slide] Here we have a washing machine. You can't see it from where you are, but if you had the time, you could read what a wonderful improvement this was over all the other washing machines. You see, all she had to do was move that center plunger up and down and the side wheels, or the side boards, would bring it back again, so she didn't have as much work in washing her clothes as scrubbing them in a tub. That was also illustrated.

[Slide] Here was another method of washing. They said no washboard was needed, but in reality the washboard was down in the bottom of the tub. The movement apparently was to get rid of the washboard. I don't know that they ever did, but it was certainly very prolific at one time, because —

[Slide] — here is another machine where they have thrown the washboards out of the windows, in the skies and everywhere else. You see, you have the forerunner of your modern

Early American Industries Association

washing machine in this gadget here. You also get the prices of these articles, and in many cases the patent dates are given.

[Slide] Along with that, they improved the clothes pin. The old clothes pin was just the crook. That was dispensed with and a little spiral spring was brought into being. You see, this is dated as shown at the American Institute Fair in 1853. "This indispensable article and household economy will most surely supersede all others." They are very entertaining reading and I am sure Mrs. Landauer will always welcome any of the Early American Industries members to her room to show them her collection for any particular field in which you may be searching.

[Slide] Here is a patent for filling lamps; a little can and the method of tilting back the glass shade.

[Slide] Here is another one, showing that they had a great deal of trouble with the glass chimneys. One would break and the other was patented so that it would not break.

[Slide] Here is another bit of material. Here is a printed bill. It shows the development. I suppose if you found an item like this in your wandering and collecting, you probably would wonder what it was. Well, it was a night light which told you the time. It revolved and the hours were on the shade. That is the important feature of a document like this, and for that reason, is very well worth saving.

[Slide] Here is the forerunner of the physician's and dentist's light, which he straps on his eyes today to look into noses or mouths. It shows the improved student and astral safety lamp. It just goes to prove that these early items were all forerunners of everything that we do today.

[Slide] They didn't have the gas mains throughout the streets of the towns and cities of the country, so they invented the globe gaslight of Boston, which would burn so many hours, and erected posts throughout the streets. They tell you here that they have them in all these different towns — High Park, New Bedford, Waltham, Meriden, New Britain — in which they perfected the light for the town. Here is an advertisement from the *Transcript* of Lynn, Massachusetts, and it says, "The Globe Gaslight Company, a year or two since, invented and patented an ingenious ar-

rangement for lighting the streets of towns and cities beyond the gas limits." I haven't any doubt that some of these still exist.

[Slide] Now and then we get a touch of humor in this collection, too. The lady says, "Yes, my father was a great antiquarian," and the other side is where he studies his antiquities. However, this is more serious than just a joke because John Scudder, who founded Scudder's Museum and was the predecessor of Barnum's — since Barnum bought out Scudder in 1841 — gathered his collection as an organ grinder, going around the streets of New York. He picked up everything that was fascinating and gradually developed a museum that became important enough for P. T. Barnum to buy.

[Slide] The Rocky Glen Print Works. Principally useful because of the illustration of the early method of printing material, and the machines that were used.

[Slide] Here is a little item of buying a share of stock in a company, but it might be the only record for the time being that you could find of the Pembroke Cotton and Woolen Manufactory of Pembroke, Massachusetts. The date is 1813. That is the reason why this document fits into the history of that particular industry.

[Slide] Here we have the well-known Bennington Stoneware Potteries. It gives us a picture of the building and it also gives us the prices of the various items which they manufactured.

[Slide] Another bill which ordinarily you would throw away. It shows you that they made this china and glassware, this particular firm, and with it they put a picture of their building on one of the pieces which they manufactured. There again, that particular picture might be the only picture that we have of that particular store.

[Slide] The Salamander Works, showing all the different kinds of ware that they manufactured. You see, if you have pieces like this, when you collect them, you often wonder what period they are or when they were made or who made them. Well, in looking across your documented material which is in a collection such as this, you might find pictured the very thing you have acquired, and it gives you very definite information as to who made it as well as when it was made.

[Slide] These little items which, not so long ago, were not considered very much, are today very much sought for. Here you have the Patent Glass and Wire Works, and here you have the different names, and again a sheet like this is often accompanied by the price list and information about the articles. It goes a great way in establishing your collection's authenticity.

[Slide] Even a little card like this of a comb manufactory depicts where they got their material — the tortoise, the bull and the elephant tusks — in 1818, and it gives us the name of the man who made the combs. Usually they wouldn't put the maker's name on, especially with the early ones.

[Slide] Here is some more humor, where they wanted to advertise some hair restorer. "Madam, permit me to restore to you your lost hair," says the gentleman who, walking behind her, picked up her false hair (waterfall) which she had unconsciously lost. A method of introducing a hair restorer.

[Slide] Another one of these bills, which shows an improved nursing bottle. Personally, I haven't any doubt but that all these things still exist. They don't just go out of existence. They are around, but people don't pay much attention to the object because they don't know much about it. But it is very interesting to find out about it.

[Slide] A darning machine, also on exhibition at the Mechanics' Fair. As you all know, at one time, the Mechanics' Fair was the chief place to introduce everything that was new in the market in the way of inventions. It was really an outgrowth of the American County Fair, which at one time, as Mr. Peters tells us, included five thousand county fairs going on in the United States at one time. America was always social-minded, people liked to get together and talk and show things, and it was always to the Fair that these things were brought.

[Slide] And here we have the Magic Needle Threader.

[Slide] A poster such as this gives us almost a complete array of the carriages that were manufactured by this firm of Rathbun, and the accompanying catalog describes and names each and every one of these vehicles, which have numbers under them in this picture.

[Slide] Then we find a coachmakers' union; in fact, it was an international union, in existence, and the scroll work and insets around the

The Chronicle

border of this document show all of the benefits of joining the union. It also shows some of the men at work, which, again, is the graphic material that illustrates how things were done, just as Mr. Davidson shows us so well and beautifully today how silver was brought into being as beautiful shapes.

[Slide] Here is another bit of ephemeral material such as the ordinary cover of a letter; in other words, an envelope, which took the opportunity of illustrating some presses which this firm had for sale. Aside from the interest of the postage stamp, perhaps, the association has the interest of depicting in the only place, possibly, such a press.

[Slide] A wood-sawing improvement. You see, it is a great labor saver, "the farmer's friend." A half-grown boy can saw more wood in a day and do it easier than two strong men. Of course, by the lever arrangement, he doesn't have to work the saw both ways.

[Slide] Plows of various kinds are depicted in this card, with the names.

[Slide] Here is the forerunner of our so-called Venetian blind, which we think was more or less recent because we have been using them in houses only lately. However, here we have a patent of 1850, called the "suspending blind" at that time, but working on exactly the same principle except that it seems to have worked from the bottom then and now we work them from the top down.

[Slide] A door spring. It gives you an idea of this spring, which is used so much today although undoubtedly much improved, but it was manufactured many years ago and was in use.

[Slide] The Hatch doors.

[Slide] Even a check has its value. The Vermont Glass Factory, you see, printed its name on this check. It tells you about some of the officers and shows the period (1814), when they were doing business. You get a little picture of that glass factory.

[Slide] Then, if you wanted to know what the gold-miners used when they went out to California, here is an advertisement of the firm in New York City which had them for sale — the various tools, such as sifters, separators, all for the industry of washing gold.

[Slide] And we have a gas engine manufacturer. This says, "Gasometers and gas apparatus for lighting mills, factories, public buildings, and

so forth, constructed on the most improved plans. All kinds of gas fixtures, pipes and furnished materials for Croton water cocks and valves for gas, steam and water." This is a fairly early one, perhaps around 1830.

[Slide] Furnaces were also very much in demand, and here is a very extended list of all the different places that installed the Walker furnace "with great satisfaction." Here, we have the recommendation which often came with these advertisements. "You would be amazed to see the important buildings in New York." The New York City Hospital and J. P. Morgan even had one, you see, by the list. All those are names of people who used this particular furnace. There must be some of those around, and undoubtedly it would be an interesting item, showing the development in the heating of homes.

[Slide] Here is the fire grate, the fire bank. I haven't been able to determine in my own mind why this particular object should be advertised, which threw the heat from the coal out into the room because, as they say, before, very little came out. I thought that the old fire back did all that for you in the days when you burned wood, outside of coal. But anyway, here it was in 1836 that this firm felt they had a wonderful improvement in heating rooms equally throughout the house with this particular grating.

[Slide] An automatic ash sifter. That is very familiar. I know in the days when you had to do that with your furnace ashes before you had oil burners, there were a lot of gadgets about for sifting the ashes and saving some of the coal. But you see, this dates back very early. One is dressed as though going out for an afternoon stroll while the other is deluged with flying soot.

Now, on the fourth floor of our building, we have an exhibition of some things of industry, a miscellaneous lot of things, but they illustrate what I have tried to show you here today, and that is, when you bring your graphic material, the library material, the manuscript material, alongside of the relic and display it, you find a great interest in it that isn't there when the relic is alone. The relic — well, all you can do is put a little sign on it and say it is this or it is that, but when you put a picture alongside of the relic and show how that particular item was used,

through a picture of the factory, and show the date when it was used, it takes on much more significance.

On the same floor, we have a costume exhibit, which I know is unique. It shows not only the costumes of certain periods, — it isn't a very large one, — but it fills one room, and all through it you will find the books, the advertisements, and everything that has to do with the making of clothes and costumes — the hat pins and everything that went into the costumes, the marble-top table, the Rogers group, and the low-necked blouses and the little earrings, everything brought into the same cases with the illustrated material. If we can have a picture of a man such as Elkins Watson, just before the Revolutionary War, we put the picture of the man wearing the vest together with the vest, and that is one thing we have been trying to bring about — a complete change of the history of the museum, in illustrating its relics with the documents, the graphic material.

You can go into a room of relics and say very little but if you go into a room of relics that has some other data in it, you can talk for hours. It seems to me that, in the future, that is one of the things we have got to do. It is a thing that I have had in mind for the Early American Industries Association, in bringing to life the industries and the growth of America, which is the greatest industrial country in the world. We have gained the greatest amount of wealth in the world through our industries, and yet we have done very little about it in the way of education. I know that everybody feels everything should be taught to the school children, but what we are fighting for now, with our six or eight or ten million men, isn't to be lost by not educating our people up to what the American democracy is, how it grew, how it started, and that story is in the work that you people who are interested in early American industries are doing. What we need to do is to get the whole country to understand these things, along with the material I have shown here today, so that we can talk about the growth of America from the facts and from the records, and then the misleaders of this world will not be able to put into office those who disregard everything about America's heritage. In that way, they help to destroy the democracy which we are trying to hold.

Early American Industries Association

Locks

(Continued from page 179, column 2)

historical locks in this country. There was a collection of locks called the Mussman Collection at Mechanics' Institute, but this collection was confined to American locks. I brought to this country the Dilbert Collection which was on display at the World's Fair in New York, and is now in the possession of the Yale and Towne Company. Another collection which I accumulated over a period of about twenty-five years is called the Kendry Collection. This collection is in San Francisco, California, where they are building a museum, the only one of its kind, that is going to be known as The Development of Locks Through the Ages.

Locks are very fascinating, and while the improvement has been great, the principle of locking has remained practically the same. It is the bolt,—the dead bolt. The locks that the wealthy Romans used were large, and the keys were a foot long. A Roman never carried his key to the front door himself. That key was carried by a servant who stood in front of the house, with the key chained to his body and his body chained to the door. When he saw his master coming, he would let him in, or, if it were an enemy, he would use the key as a weapon. That man's title was "janitor," and that is where our word, "janitor" comes from. In Latin, as you all know, *janua* was a door, and *janitoris* or *janitrix* was the guardian of the door.

A Roman, when he married, would turn all the keys of his household over to his wife except the ring key. You probably have seen ring keys in the different museums,—Roman ring keys. That key was worn on the middle finger of the right hand, and with this key the Roman never parted. It was the key to the wine cellar.

I am giving you just a brief outline on the development of the lock. During the tenth century, when the Crusaders entered the city of Constantinople and needed locks, they had to get wooden locks from Egypt, and the wooden lock was taken by the Crusaders through their crusades into Roumania, Bulgaria, Serbia and Hungary. Hungary was the first country to reinforce the wooden lock with iron.

The city of Nuremburg, in Germany, in the eleventh century, was the

center of lock making, and was making locks for the whole civilized world until the Thirty Year War came. They then turned their factories over to making armor and the art of making locks was lost to Germany but began to be practiced in France during the early Renaissance. France made some beautiful locks, with fine hand-work, which I will show you afterward. After the war, Germany again took the lock business away from France. England was the first country to invent the tumbler lock, the lever-tumbler, while Linus Yale was the inventor of the American lock, the American pin-tumbler lock, which today is used over the entire civilized world.

There has been a great struggle to develop the lock of today in our country. At one time, Bramer and Chubb of England were the outstanding tumbler-lock manufacturers, and they claimed that their lock was unpickable. About 120 years ago, in New Haven, Connecticut, a new business opened,—a lock making business. It was the first lock concern in the United States and it had a struggle in getting started because the country was flooded with English locks. Several American lock manufacturers decided to send a lock expert—a lock-picker—to England to try to pick the Bramer lock. He spent four weeks in England and was able to pick the English lock. After a while, England sent some lock-pickers over here to try to pick the American lock.

That was also true of the safe. The first real safe was invented in this country and was sent to England, and the English locksmiths, at an exhibition at the Grand Central Palace in London, opened that safe in twenty-four hours. So Chubb came out with a new safe which was called impregnable. The manufacturers of America sent two lock experts to England and they opened that safe in a half-hour.

The United States safe—I am not talking about the cheap chest or safe, but the banker's chest and the real safe—is at least fifty years ahead of the burglar. There is no burglar, even an expert locksmith, who can undertake to pick a safe. He might succeed by accident or, if he were able to spend perhaps a week's time, he might and he might not. It is all guess-work because he cannot look through the steel door.

However, the safe of today in a bank is not protected merely against burglars, but also against foreign invasion and organized riots. If anything like this should occur in New York City, no one could get into the Sub-Treasury because, besides having massive doors which are drill-proof, torch-proof and dynamite-proof, it has two connections with subterranean wells, which go down about four hundred feet, and in the case of a forced entry, the two valves would open up and drown the intruders like rats. It would be at least four weeks before the valves could be located and the water tapped off. When you put your money in a safe deposit box today, especially a new one of the latest type, you don't have to worry about anybody getting in because it also has electric protection.

However, the safe of today was not developed as easily and as fast as I am talking here. For instance, this is one of the first American safes, long before the combination was discovered [indicating]. It was President Lincoln's safe and is over a hundred years old. It was an improvement over earlier safes because it is very difficult to locate the keyhole. After my talk is over, I will give you the key and let you unlock this safe, if you can find the keyhole. This safe was made by hand, and each such safe was made for a certain customer.

We have safes in this country that were made, about eighty years ago, mostly for the very wealthy, and finished in a style of Louis IV. This safe [indicating] was for an office; it has no particular design but is made just for strength. However, the burglars soon found that they could rip open the door of this type, so the doors were made heavier. Then the burglars found that the bottom of the safe was made out of sheet iron, easily pierced, so the bottom of the safe had to be strengthened. Today the safe is made differently. The top, the bottom, the walls and the doors are all of the same thickness and all have the same strength and the same resistance.

The key was eliminated, when the combination was invented, originally by Sargent of Sargent and Greenleaf. Up to then, with their fine kits, the burglars were able to make keys for safes, but the combination puzzled them and there were absolutely no safe burglaries in this country for about a year.

The Chronicle

After the combination had gone along very nicely for a time, the yeggmen had a new idea. During the night, they kidnapped the treasurer of a bank in Boston and forced him to give them the combination to the safe. After that, there were kidnappings all over the country. This brought about the invention of the time lock. This [indicating] is one of the first time locks. What the time lock actually does is to disconnect the combination from the main lock, so that, even if you have the combination, you cannot unlock the lock. The time lock connects the lock with the combination again at a proper time, whenever it is set for, probably eight-thirty or nine in the morning. Of course, this again baffled the yeggmen. Since it came into general use, there have been very few robberies of banks except a few little holdups. I might say that we are talking now about banks, not private safes, which are made to resist fire rather than burglary.

However, after vaults came into use, a new situation had to be provided for. Every once in a while, somebody would walk into a vault and the door would be accidentally locked while he was inside. So today, in New York, we have what we call a "tripper" system. Every vault has to have a telephone and, if anybody is locked in, all he has to do is call the proper party, the banker or the police, and he is instructed how to "trip" the time lock. Then the party who has the combination can open the vault.

Coming back to the locksmith, as I said, the art of making locks is the oldest trade in the history of civilization. Some of the fine locks which have been made, of course, you probably have never seen. There are locks today at Mechanics' Institute which took six months to make; they work on nine tumblers.

The locks of the Hotel Pennsylvania are interesting. The maid on each floor can open all the doors on her floor, but no others. If you lock yourself in, by turning the extra latch on the inside of the door, neither the maid or anyone else who has an ordinary master key, can come into your room, but in case anything should happen to you so that you could not go to the door and unlock it, there is the emergency grand-master key, which is kept in the hotel safe and which will open any lock, whether or not the privacy catch is on. All the locks have

to be made in the factory with special tumblers to fit a certain master key, but the grand-master key of the Hotel Pennsylvania will not open any of the locks in the Hotel Astor or in the Hotel Commodore. The set of locks have to be made to that particular key. There is no such thing as a master key for the Yale type or pin-tumbler type of lock.

One of my jobs is to keep all the bridges of the New York Triboro Bridge Authority locked up—and that includes the Triboro, Whitestone, Cross Bay, Henry Hudson and Marine Parkway Bridges—using something like ten thousand locks. Today, on account of the emergency and watching out for sabotage, we even have to go on top of the catwalks, where there are doors that lead into the towers, and there are other doors which come out through the abutments, all of which doors have to be kept locked. There are lift spans where the electrical machinery is installed, and all that has to be locked up, as well as all the administration buildings. They also have grand-master keys and in case of an emergency, they can open any lock in the system.

As to locks on private houses, today we have a dead lock which it is very advisable to use. I advise no one to have a spring lock on his front door, because anyone can open a spring latch with either a piece of celluloid or a screw driver. You might have a fine, pick-proof cylinder, but the lock itself is so cheap that by inserting a piece of celluloid, anyone can pull the bolt back and open the door. A dead lock can be locked only by turning the key. A spring latch is all right on a closet, or on a bedroom, but it is no good on the front door.

If any of you would like to read up on locks, I would suggest *The Lure of the Lock*, which is published by the Mechanics' Institute and which was written by A. A. Hopkins, Editor of the *Scientific American*, and in which you will find all the names of the great American locksmiths who contributed to the development of the lock of today.

Early American Wooden Ware

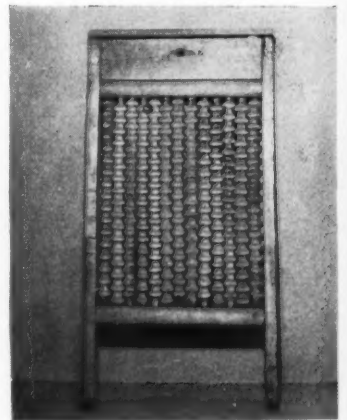
We have received a complimentary copy of a book under the above title by our fellow-member, Miss Mary

Earle Gould, whose name is familiar to our readers from her frequent and valuable contributions to THE CHRONICLE. It contains 248 pages and 12 chapters, entitled as follows:

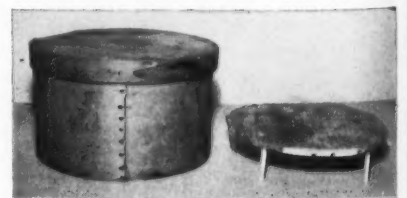
I, Earmarks on Wooden Ware; II, Wood—What the Early Settlers Found and How They Learned to Use It; III, Tools for Making Wooden Ware; IV, Old New England Kitchens; V, Pantry Tools and Labor-Saving Devices; VI, Bowls, Plates, Mortars and Pestles; VII, Common Wooden Boxes; VIII, Buckets, Tubs and Kegs; IX, Sieves; X, Splint Found in Wooden Ware; XI, The Beginning of Paint; XII, The Lyctus Powder-Post Beetle—How to Check It.

The book is lavishly illustrated with 131 attractive cuts. We should all be grateful to Miss Gould for this important contribution to our knowledge of early days.

The price is \$4.50 and the publishers are Gates & Gates, 24 Charlotte Street, Worcester, Mass.



WASHBOARD OF THE SPOOL BED ERA



PIE BOX

A wooden rack with three or four peg legs was made to fit inside. One pie was placed on the bottom of the box, the rack put over it, and a second pie rested on the rack. This enabled two pies to travel unharmed.

Early American Industries Association

Early American Industries Association Inc.

ALEXANDER J. WALL, President, 170
Central Park West, New York, N.Y.

WALLACE K. BROWN, Vice-President,
7 Warren Place, Montclair, N. J.

J. D. HATCH, JR., Secretary and Treas-
urer, 125 Washington Avenue, Al-
bany, N. Y.

J. EARLE BACON, Chairman Recruiting
Committee, 113 Keene Street, Providence,
R. I.

W. B. SPRAGUE, Editor of THE
CHRONICLE, 43 Cedar Street, New
York, N. Y.

Communications should be addressed
as follows: Pertaining to the contents
of THE CHRONICLE, to Mr. Sprague.
Suggestions for prospective members
to Mr. Bacon. Other matters, to Mr.
Hatch. Addresses as here given.

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135-29 40th Road, Flushing, N. Y.

Our Purpose

The purpose of the corporation is educational, to encourage the study and better understanding of early American industry, in the home, in the shop, on the farm, and on the sea, and especially to discover, identify, classify, preserve and exhibit obsolete tools, implements, utensils, instruments, vehicles, appliances and mechanical devices used by American craftsmen, farmers, housewives, mariners, professional men and other workers.

Dues

The annual dues are payable January 1st, and are as follows: Regular members, \$1.00; Contributing members, \$2.00; Supporting members, \$5.00; Sustaining members, \$10.00 and up. There is no distinction between the classes, except the amount of dues, but the publication of THE CHRONICLE cannot be financed unless a considerable number of the members pay more than \$1.00. Each member is expected to voluntarily place himself in the class which represents the amount he is willing to contribute to the support of the Association for the current year. Life membership costs \$50.00. THE CHRONICLE is sent to all members without additional charge. Many of the back numbers may be secured from the Treasurer for from 20c up, according to the supply on hand, and a twelve-page index to the twenty-four numbers of Volume I, containing a useful bibliography, for \$1.00 each. For further information, address any of the officers.

Spring Meeting

The Spring meeting of the Early American Industries Association was held at the New York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West, New York, on May 23rd, at 10.30 a.m. After delivering a short welcoming address, President Alexander J. Wall introduced Mr. Marshall Davidson, associate curator of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, American Wing, who gave a most instructive lecture, illustrated with lantern slides, on "Americanism in Early Silver." He was followed by Mr. Charles Courtney, who discoursed very entertainingly on "The American Lock of Today and the Development of Locks Through the Ages." The last speaker was President Wall himself, who showed and explained a fine collection of slides portraying early American advertising leaflets and posters. Two of these valuable talks are included in this issue and the third will appear in the next issue. The meeting adjourned at 12.50 p.m.

The Busy Yankee Girl

By J. EARLE BACON

In early days in New England the Yankees were obliged to be self-sufficient. One family known to the writer — of twelve members — spent only \$40.00 in cash in one year at stores, mostly for shoes which were, of course, repaired at home when necessary.

The men went to the fields at sunrise in haying time and on many farms, such as that of the writer's grandfather in Connecticut, a pullcart was trundled about ten o'clock to the mowing lot, with cider, cheese, hot doughnuts, and large wedges of either apple or mince pie. A full barrel of mincemeat was put down every fall and, at Thanksgiving time, forty pies were baked at one heating of the big brick-oven. They were placed face to face in the buttery and allowed to freeze and then, when brought back to the kitchen, heated in the oven of the cook-stove, the latter acquired about 1840. Pie for breakfast was quite usual.

Until the middle of the nineteenth century, from sixty to eighty per cent. of the population were engaged in agricultural pursuits. They raised sheep and grew flax, wheat, rye, barley, buckwheat, oats, corn and popcorn. They had their own "sugar-bush" and relied mostly on maple products for sweetening. White sugar was unknown in the very early days and, when loaf sugar was produced later, it was only for the very well-to-do and not then for the family. It was kept locked in the "caddy" and only brought out for favored visitors with much ceremony. Visitors so treated knew themselves to be "above the salt." A sugar-crusher is a rare item today.

The visits of the tin-peddlers were eagerly awaited and the villagers vied with one another for the privilege of putting him up overnight, for he was as were the story-tellers of the market-places of ancient Rome and Byzantium,—he brought the gossip from the far places—was the broadcaster.

Many farmers had a water-power brook with either a gristmill, an up-and-down sawmill or a water-driven woodworking shop. They took their tithe of their neighbors' grain and found such side-lines profitable.

The maid of the "bundling" days usually "kept company" for years before marriage and was busy with her "hope-chests." The family helped her, saving the live-plucked goose feathers for beds and pillows, helping her comb and card her wool, ret, break, scutch (or swingle), bleach, hatchel, and dye her flax for spinning and weaving. When the great day came, not only one but often several chests were filled to overflowing with cloth of pure linen, wool or the mixture known as "lindsey-woolsey," for bed-ticks, pillow-casings, sheets, table spreads, towels and for garments for herself and her man. Mothers saved the "butter-money" for her cash *dot*. Of course the girl also had to help with the butter, the cheese, the paring, quartering and slicing of the apples in apple-drying time. There was mending, darning, sewing, knitting, tatting, cooking, tending the younger children, nursing a sick calf or lamb, sweeping, putting down apple-butter, preparing preserves, putting down head cheese and pigs' feet, smoking hams and bacon, drying beef, pickling corned beef, filling the pickle keg, making tomato ketchup and mincemeat. There was cider to be boiled down for the mincemeat, the care of the slowly maturing

The Chronicle

apple-cider, vinegar, dandelion and elderberry wine, and even applejack to make, quantities of shagbarks, chest-nuts, butter-nuts and hazel nuts to garner, herbs to be grown and dried to scent the handkerchief box, to flavor the soup, or to make "bittersweet salve" that would cure any ailment from housemaid's knee to zymosis. Candied flag-root was a favorite confection and of course citron and every bit of orange and lemon peel was prized for the fruit cake that would keep for a year. Rose water was made and a bit of sack and brandy also went into those enormous cakes, sometimes requiring forty eggs and ten pounds of currants. "Sugaring off" was done every spring. There were all the manifold sorts of berries to pick and often put down in jars or crocks. A full list of all the necessary tasks would fill several pages.

We hope that those days of forced economy and thrift, those desperate times of courage, untiring effort and deprivation may not return, but the lessons of frugality which were such vital factors in the development of this great country are well worth while remembering. The fittest survived, but many of *them* lived to a hundred years of age or more. Unfortunately my own grandfather, as his wife often prophesied, died from an over-consumption of his home-grown tobacco at the immature age of ninety-eight years and seven months. *But* I have a letter written by *his* mother in steady flowing script on her one hundred and fourth birthday. My own mother was the youngest of a family of twelve, to die from the result of an accident at eighty-five, never having had either backache or headache in her life. It would appear that hard work *per se* is not necessarily fatal.

Benjamin Randolph and the Speedwell Furnace

By MARION PIERSON BANKS

New Jersey has offered the glass collector a fine hunting ground for a long time. While iron does not possess the enchanting color and design found in blown glass, some interesting and useful marked pieces have been found which recall an important and flourishing industry. As soon as the colonists settled in new homes,

they began working the iron ores to provide the means of cooking and heating.

The pine woods of South Jersey provided the materials in abundance — wood for fuel and the necessary charcoal, easily worked bog iron along the streams near the ocean, and water-power for the heavy hammers which hardened the iron. In fact, the dams which were built for the mills kept the water from the ore-pits at least part of the year.



CAST IRON POT

Possibly by Benjamin Randolph, with enlargement of maker's mark.

On the Wading River in Burlington County, Daniel Randolph owned a large tract of land before the Revolution. About 1760 he had a sawmill there known as Randolph's mill and later as Speedwell mill. He was of a New Jersey family which had been known as the "Fitz Randolphs." His brother Benjamin was an industrious and ambitious man and a patriot.

Benjamin first appears in the Philadelphia records in 1768 as a worker in

wood. At the Golden Eagle in Chestnut Street in 1770, he "manufactured wooden Buttons of apple, holly, and laurel wood hard and clear." He became very famous as a chair-maker at the Golden Eagle. The famous sample chairs were from his shop, as well as the writing desk on which Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence.

After serving with the Philadelphia City Troop at the battles of Trenton and Princeton, Randolph left Philadelphia in 1777 and probably went to live with his brother Daniel in the pine wilderness. About 1778, Daniel gave his brother a deed for his Speedwell tract and went to Freehold to live. Benjamin tried to sell the land, but having no success, decided to use it himself, and in 1785 had it carefully surveyed and marked. His initials, BR, and the date 1785 are still clear on a stone marker near the road from Chatsworth to New Gretna. He then built a large furnace, the necessary dams for waterpower, a forge, and probably also a casting-house. He built a large dwelling house which still stands, and lived there until 1791, the date of his death. Anna Randolph, his daughter, inherited the property and lived at Speedwell for some time.

Mr. Charles S. Boyer of the Camden County Historical Society found a cast-iron hearth and iron lintel which were made at Speedwell. The principal product of the furnace was pig-iron, which was shipped by boat from Wading River to New York City. The pigs were marked in large letters, SPEEDWELL.

The illustrations show an early cast-iron cooking pot which I found about two years ago in Morristown, with an enlargement of the maker's mark. The mark is very clear. The letters BR resemble those used on the stone marker. Is this Benjamin Randolph's mark for his cast-iron pieces? What is the significance of the jug and the design below which resembles wings?

When Anna Randolph left Speedwell she moved to Morristown and stayed there. Also Benjamin's ward married Gabriel H. Ford, and lived in the mansion known as Washington's Headquarters.

Interesting articles on Randolph will be found in *Antiques*, Vol. VII, p. 121, Vol. XI, p. 365, and Vol. XVII, p. 21. The history of New Jersey iron is told in *Early Forges and Furnaces in New Jersey*, by Charles S. Boyer, published in Philadelphia in 1931.

Early American Industries Association

The Directory of Collectors, Dealers and Museums

The following changes should be made in your copy of the directory. All are additions except those marked (Co) indicating correction.

COLLECTORS

DELAWARE

Wilmington: Titus C. Geesey, omit TA (Co).

PENNSYLVANIA

Swarthmore: Mrs. Waldo B. Davison, 730 Harvard Ave., TX.

DEALERS

CONNECTICUT

Wapping: Horace Porter, FT, HD, KH, TC.

Willimantic: Alliger, Newton I., FT, HD, KH, LD.

MASSACHUSETTS

Bridgewater: Frank Williams, general.

East Mansfield: J. F. Bonney, general.

Marion: John Beldon, general.

Plymouth: F. J. Bittinger, general.

West Brewster: H. B. Clarke, general.

NEW JERSEY

East Orange: Mrs. Marion Pierson Banks, 533 N. Arlington Ave., HD, KH, LD.

NEW YORK

Albany: Warshaw Collection, 554 Park Ave., advertisements, catalogues, etc.

OHIO

Ashland: Earl and Rhea Knittle, 420 Center St., general.

PENNSYLVANIA

Christiana: Wm. R. Fieles (omit, deceased—Co).

Doylestown: Mary Atkinson, KH, TC.

Manheim: David B. Missimer (omit, deceased—Co).

Myerstown: R. R. Uhrich (omit, deceased—Co).

Rheinholds: Mrs. Hattie K. Brunner (Co).

Richlandtown: Gargoyles Antiques, Mrs. Martha Hill Hommel, HD, KH, LD, TC.

Sellersville: Ira S. Reed (moved to Phila., address not known—Co).

Silverdale: Levi Yoder (omit, deceased—Co).

York: Joe Kendig, FT, HD, HF, KH, LD.

RHODE ISLAND

Hopkinton: Ralph Sisson, TX and general.

MUSEUMS

DELAWARE

Winterthur: H. F. du Pont Museum, general.

MAINE

York Village: Old Gaol Museum, FI, FT, KH, LD, SM, WM.

MASSACHUSETTS

Deerfield: Deerfield Museum, general.

Medford: Royall House, 15 George St., HD, KH.

Southbridge: Wells Historical Museum, HD, KH, LD, SM, TA, TC, WM (Co).

Sturbridge: Old Quinnebaug Village, FI, FT, HD, HF, KH, NA, PR, SI, TC, TX, VE, WH.

Worcester: Dolls Paradise Museum, 46 Beeching St., KH, LD, TA, TC, VE, WM.

NEW JERSEY

Burlington: Burlington County Historical Society, general.

Camden: Camden County Historical Society, Park Blvd. and Euclid Ave., general.

Morristown: Historical Museum and Washington's Headquarters, HD, KH, LD, TC, TX, WM.

Salem: Salem County Historical Society, general.

Woodbury: Gloucester County Historical Society, general.

NEW YORK

Cooperstown: New York State Historical Association (to open soon), FI, FT, KH, LD, MA, TC, TX, VE, WM.

East Hampton: East Hampton Historical Society, general.

Schenectady: Schenectady City Museum, general; Schenectady County Historical Society, KH, MA, SM.

Schoharie: Old Fort Johnson, FI, FT, KH, TC, VE.

OHIO

Massillon: Massillon Museum, general.

PENNSYLVANIA

Reading: Historical Society of Berks County, FT, HD, HF, KH, LD, stove plates.

VERMONT

Weston: Vermont Guild of Old-Time Crafts and Industries, FT, KH, MA, TC, TX.

VIRGINIA

Newport News: Mariners Museum, NA, TC.
Washington's Birthplace: Wakefield, general.



Our Library

Every one attempting to understand the early American industries finds that he must consult all sorts of publications, objects and other sources of information. Some of this information has been well condensed and summarized in certain books and pamphlets which are in constant use by those interested.

The officers of our Association and its members often wish to know where to seek this information. As the years pass, if this Association makes it a part of its policy to collect and preserve such records, such a collection may be made to be very useful and valuable to its members. Some volumes have already been accumulated, largely donated by Mr. W. B. Sprague, and with the establishment of the position of Librarian, the formation of a library becomes a definite policy of the Association.

I hope that members will keep this plan in mind, and send to the Librarian such material as they consider valuable. However, before shipping any large amount, inquiry should be made as to whether or not it duplicates material already acquired. To serve as a guide important additions may be printed periodically in THE CHRONICLE. The following is a list of our publications, by authors, to date:

Dodd, George:

1844 *British Manufactures. Chemical.* v. 3 and 4. 218 pp. London, England.

1851 *The Textile Manufactures of Great Britain.* vol. 1 and 2, 224 pp. London, England.

Hibben, Thomas:

1933 *The Carpenter's Tool Chest.* 209 pp. Philadelphia.

Moore, J. R. H.:

1927 *An Industrial History of the American People.* 496 pp. New York.

Rawson, Marion N.:

1927 *Candle Days.* The story of early American arts and implements. 307 pp. New York.

Rose, Walter:

1938 *The Village Carpenter,* with an Introduction by Frank Kendon. 146 pp. Cambridge.

Tryon, Rolla M.:

1917 *Household Manufactures in the United States, 1640-1860.* A Study in Industrial History. 413 pp. Chicago.

Williamson, Scott G.:

1940 *The American Craftsman.* 239 pp. New York.

After inquiry as to the desirability of donations to the library, and acceptance by the Librarian, these publications should be sent *transportation prepaid*, as no funds have been assigned to cover this expense. The postage book rate for publications over 22 pages, is at the rate of 1½ cents per pound, to the limit of 70-pound packages.

All correspondence and shipments should be addressed as follows:

Dr. Charles C. Adams, Librarian,
Early American Industries
Association,
New York State Museum,
Albany, N. Y.

COMMUNICATIONS

From MR. FRANK K. SWAIN:

"That granular fuel mentioned on page 178 must be something that has served its purpose and has become waste material and the price seems to back up that idea—(10 cents per bushel). What about tan bark—must tanners use only the bark of trees? They certainly use oak and it is ground up.

"When I was a boy,—say about 1890,—an old tannery, which had been running for a great many years, closed down and fell to ruin. We lived near it and people used to go there and get loads of the ground wood or bark that had been used in the tannery and place it on their walks as we do crushed stone or gravel. It looked like dried apples—reddish-brown in color and in small particles but not fine like sawdust. Perhaps it was free for the hauling, as sawdust is today, but I never saw it used anywhere except within a mile or two of the tannery. Tan bark was formerly ground up or crushed by one large stone running around in a circle, like a wagon wheel, over a stone surface (as flax seed was crushed) but the feed-cutter-like machine would probably be very much better and would come along with the other endless inventions that knocked out all old processes. The discarded tan bark used for paths certainly would burn but I never knew anyone who burned it."

From THE NEWARK MUSEUM:

"We are writing to ask if you could give us some help in the matter of early American looms. In the Museum's collection of coverlets there is one of double weave dated December 19, 1817. Mary Meigs Atwater says that this looked to her like draw loom weaving but that she has found no record of draw looms in this country. Woven into the border which extends across one end of the coverlet are the words 'Wove at Westbury (for) Ann Everit 12 month 19: 1817'. We had thought that this was Westbury, Conn. The design is of an eight-pointed star within an octagon. The coverlet is woven in two pieces of natural linen and indigo wool. It is 82 inches wide by 95 inches long. Can you tell us what type of loom other than a floor loom of eight or more harnesses might have been used at that date? Does the fact that the coverlet is seamed through the middle help to determine the type of loom?"

Page 188

The New York State Historical Association announces that it is about to open, in its museum at Cooperstown, a permanent exhibit of tools and implements used in the development of the New York farm and home from pioneer days up to about 1870. According to the prospectus, it "plans to set up specimen shops of the various handicrafts, generally an important part of farm life: a spinning and weaving shop, a fulling and dyeing establishment; a tannery, a cooper's shop, a carpenter's shop, a cobbler's shop, a wagon-maker's shop, a syrup and sap making display, cider, hop and wine presses, a blacksmithy, a tin-knocker's shop. It plans to set up the elements of an old country store, its shelves and counters laden with the licorice sticks, the anise seeds, the spices and dry goods of another day. It plans to set up an old-fashioned kitchen, complete with the crane, kettles, trivets, pots and pans, fire carriers and other equipment of a hundred or more years ago. It plans to display these groups of souvenirs of Yorkers' ingenuity and hard work so as to show the fine points and the exact use of each tool. Each object will also bear the name of the donor. It believes that such an exhibit is the best way to record a type of life that in this machine age is rapidly vanishing and to inspire a proper respect and admiration for that way of life in the youth of today and tomorrow."

From MR. C. CARROLL PALMER:

"Sprague Chapter Number One of the Early American Industries Association held its Spring Meeting on Saturday, April 25th, at the Newark Museum in Newark, New Jersey. Wallace K. Brown opened the meeting and called for a report of the Nominating Committee given by J. Howard Dilts. C. Carroll Palmer of Plainfield and Edward R. Gross of New Brunswick were elected Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer respectively. An Executive Advisory Committee and Membership Committee were appointed.

"Hunter Ross, of the Museum staff, demonstrated the preparation of flax which had been grown in the state of Oregon. There had been a period of from 8 to 14 days of retting (soaking) in a pool, stream or by dew to soften the tough woody fiber. The flax seeds were removed as the stems were

pulled through a 'ripple' made of a single row of sharpened steel points. Mr. Ross used a ponderous 'brake' of oak to crush the stems, followed by sharp strokes of a wooden 'scutching' or 'swinging sword' as the flax was held on a tapered top-heavy block. The fibers were combed and straightened with a 'hetchel', a slab of wood multi-spiked and bolted to a bench. The prepared flax was then ready to spin and weave.

"Members brought in articles from their own collections. They were shown and described by Mr. Eaton, Mr. Shirley, Mrs. Wolcott, Mr. Palmer, and Mr. Dilts. A tour of the museum revealed numerous early industrial items neatly labeled and displayed."

From DR. BURTON N. GATES:

"For upward of ten years, I have had a candle holder essentially the same as that illustrated in the last issue of THE CHRONICLE, page 177. This was purchased from a dealer in Boston. Made of wrought iron, the thick metal is turned up to form an oblong saucer ($5\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{3}{4}$ inches, one inch deep). It has the hook in front for the purpose of hanging the holder, presumably. It also has the two candle sockets, of heavy wrought metal, but the central one is not adjustable, being riveted to the saucer. The socket in the corner, has inserted an additional, thinner iron sleeve, two inches high. The most marked difference in construction is the handle, which in my example is pitched at about 45 degrees from the table surface, instead of being parallel. Furthermore, the ironwork of the handle forms a socket for the insertion of a wooden handle (lacking) which probably was much longer than that in the illustration. This construction suggests a use on the floor, or at least at a low level and probably at a distance from the operator.

"I have thought the only probable domestic use might be around the brick oven. Its actual use seems more likely industrial, perhaps in a metal-working shop. The presence of the characteristic hook suggests that it was for some specific purpose, in some particular position, where a metal strap had been fastened or some other receptacle provided which would facilitate hanging the candle-holder in the right position for the light required in some special task."

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